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\$8.00 pr.

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 9, Number 3

November-December, 1951

These Sound Like Christmas



Browsing around with a weather eye turned toward Yule time, it did seem like almost each and every doll in our Kimport cubby-nooks and shelves was pleading its case.

Alabama Annie grinned—"I've got on m' Sunday dress an' bonnet—red as holly berries. M' haid is a healthy giant pecan; m' legs 'n' arms are stout leather covered wire. Anybody don't know what m'ght be'n my satchel!"

6½" tall — No. 194 — \$2.50

Minnie Mamie is an Arizona made Navajo Peddler doll. She'd not be a gabby person, but there she stood, holding forth a copper tray full of gifts. With this all hand-made doll comes other samples of her tribal crafts, a woven scarf, a feathered headdress, bow and arrow, beadwork, a piece of



turquoise and another one of petrified wood! In velvet blouse with silver belt and bead trimmed leather moccasins, she brings you Christmas.

8½" tall — No. 125 — \$4.50

Oregon Annie brings a basket of apples. She says, "Sure, and I'm an old woman, as you can see by the gray hair frizzin' out from under me shawl. I can stand up, but I'm easier sittin' down on a bit of a box or a bench. Apples,

NOTICE—No price for any article listed or described herein exceeds the ceiling price for that article, as determined under applicable O.P.S. ceiling price regulations.

Apples! It'd be a pity to sell some and spoil the shiney, full look of m' pretty hand woven basket." Annie is a dear old soul; stock-inette modeled face—carefully dressed.

8" tall — No. 59 — Specially priced \$5.00

Trina and Tex are Kimport State Dolls for New Mexico. They are most ingeniously made, but let Trina tell: "We mak'a fine, gay Christmas present because we are all bright colors; we carry you paper flower bouquets, have hard English'a-walnut heads. Mrs. Webb who made us put lots a work into weaving straw hat and shoes, then last thing—whoosh—we were dipped all over into smooth hot wax!" Tex says, "Trina is always right." About 7 inches tall, two dolls, **No. 181B-C, specially priced, \$3.50 per pair.**

Kimport couldn't get you a Christmas reservation for Sun Valley, but our Idaho ski girl could breeze in with a breath of festivity. "If you'd welcome a wind blown young modern in sweater and slacks, with skis under her boots and ski poles in her woolly mittened hands — well, Merry Christmas, I'm your gal!"

8" tall — No. 43 — \$7.50

That many, wishing for Holiday adoption, were State type selections. Ichabod Crane kept peeking and leering and all but falling off his perch to be chosen! "If Legend of Sleepy Hollow isn't a volume that belongs in any library, and if I, Ichabod, am not the singing hero of said classic—then Katrina Van Tassel is a scarecrow and Brom Bones a midget!" He really is one of the cleverest of hand

made characters. Tall, lanky, funny faced, Ichabod can "stride along the horizon" or sit hunched up on a book shelf. 'Certainly would make a distinguished though not expensive gift.

13" tall — No. 193 — only \$7.50



There are so many, many imports taking up residence in this country—duty paid, and no further immigration quota required. A Damascus gentleman and lady might sound like Christmas. Yes, from this oldest of Biblical ports come tall, olive complexioned dolls dressed in velvet and damask and rich hued cloth fashioned into garments like folk wore two thousand years ago. Their sharply modeled heads are covered with

stockinette, then painted. No two are identical because both the dolls and their costuming is a craft project, originated under the tutelage of one Barrone Belling.

11" tall—No. 283—Syrian Man \$15.00

No. 283A Syrian Woman — \$15.00

Christmas Special,

The Pair, No. 283P — \$25.00

One more, but such a beauty, and then some really inexpensive ones. But large, luscious "Grazia," an Italian, done in the Lenci tradition, looks too much like Christmas to pass. She is about 15 inches tall, dressed in splendid peasant array of bright but blended colors, in felt and organza, embroidered ribbon and celanese. Her felt face is modeled and painted with lifelike accuracy; luxurious Brunette curls and a graceful headdress frame her face. All workmanship and materials are top grade.

No. 757 — marked \$14.95

Special — \$13.50

So-o, OK for some child-sized suggestions, but suitable too as collection dolls or they wouldn't be coming from Kimport. Nothing could be more representative of Mexico than a man (looks like a bandit) woven of tough bullrushes. We have in a hundred of these indestructibles, 10 inches tall. Little boys love them.

No. 352V — 95c —
and that's postpaid.

A miniature set of half dozen market folk come from Guatemala, packed in a painted bent-wood box. They are amazingly well done, dolls around an inch or so tall; maybe you'd like several for "stocking stuffers."



No. 366M — a box full — 95c

No. 366M-6 — half dozen — \$5.00

Least expensive imports that we can send you, would be fresh, hand-made cloth pairs from Ecuador. From inch and a half to 3 inches tall, they're cute as can be!

No. 394 — two dolls — 50c

One more miniature import, and again in quantity, is a series of the eight Chinese Immortals, brightly enameled in Oriental coloring. Perfect figurines for dish gardens or such small grouping—or to keep the set intact.

2" tall — No. 438 — \$1.25

Doll House Dolls. This family, made in Germany, is the ideal one for fitting in with most doll house furniture. Each doll has modeled head and hands in flesh color, completely bendable body and heavy enough shoes so that it stands alone. Mommy and Dad are about 5" tall. Sister, one with a wig, about 3 3/4", and Toddler with modeled curl-top bob, 3 1/4". All are dressed.

No. 600 and 600A, the adults
\$2.25 each

No. 600D, girl — \$1.75

and 600B, Little One — \$1.50

All four in one order, No. 600-4

Special — \$5.95



OLD ENGLISH

On our envelope this mailing are four favorite Carolers—the robust ruddy singing Violinist in his greatcoat, the wheezy, bandy legged Horn Tooter, Little Girl Singer with her book of Carols and Lantern Boy to stand close by. Lady Contralto, another 9" adult was added later. She stops by with packages, muff, handsome shawl and bonnet to blend her voice with the pictured quartette. The lady is No. 77C, and priced \$7.50, same as the others.

If you have planned to someday have these best beloved Christmas dolls there's no time like now to succumb to their charms; order one, or all!

And yes, the Dickens' Cratchits are a Kimport specialty too. Tall papa Bob with Tiny Tim perched high on his shoulder is No. 70,

\$12.50. This oft preferred pair is almost 12" tall, to the top of Tim's crutch.

Bustling, beaming Mother C. comes bearing the pudding, and Uncle Scrooge converted, reformed, is irresistible. This series is definitely collection class, perfect for Yule Time and good, too, all year in your "library collection."

Mrs. Cratchit,

No. 56 — \$7.50

Scrooge

No. 51 — \$7.50

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

It's a toss-up whether to feature the speaking engagements of Luta Ferrell (D.C.) or to brag about the social activities of her dolls. In one recent letter there was word of Mrs. Ferrell's Latin American group spending a week at Western Maryland College. There was a seminar showing, and one which sponsor Ferrell admitted was a rather elaborate three-day exhibit for the Council of Church Women meeting.

"I have painted background effects for all of the Latin American countries which really add an effective and artistic touch." And another quote: "I have recently had thirty doll photographs taken. These I use, one on each page when there is no Kimport page with a sketch."

Christmas Legends and Dolls

CHRISTINA CELEBRATES "JULAFTON"

"Julafton"? — That's Christmas Eve in Sweden, her tree is the "Julgran" and the jolly verses tacked onto her gifts are "Jul-Klappan." Can't you yust hear the Scandinavians swapping J's for Y's in jolly Yule jargon! Coffee and cakes are served in late afternoon, then the door thrown open into that other room where twinkling and glowing in lavish splendor is the Norway spruce.



Kimprod has two new girl dolls from Sweden to offer this month; good sized, play type with pretty commercial heads and cloth bodies. We've always called the Rattvik district one Christina. She wears the little pointed cap, laced bodice and panel of bright hori-

zontal stripes at the skirt front. We named the Leksand doll, Carin. Her apron with vertical stripes looks hand woven. No. 956A, Christina, and 957A is Carin, 11 inches tall, only \$3.75 each.

PETRY'S CHRISTMAS "PUTZ"

Back in the Czechoslovakian homeland, ancestors of this pretty girl planned reverently for the creche that was to be set up at Christmas. Before the snows set in, pieces of moss, miniature logs and pretty rocks were gathered. The moss was nurtured and kept green to provide a carpet 'round the tiny manger, and its surrounding group of worshippers. This, according to Moravian faith, is the Putz, for which religious dolls are kept from year to year.

Our rosy complexioned Petrya is such a crisp, fresh looking Miss. The balloon sleeves of her blouse are so white, the bright background of her full skirt is so red and her boots so black! Gathered lace ruffles, posey 'broided ribbons and even a pleated petticoat add to that pert, well starched appearance. A 10 inch doll from Slovakia, she is No. 203A, \$3.75.

MIDSUMMER "DIA DE NATAL"

Down in Brazil, with Christmas coming in hot weather, such beloved Latin customs as boating, fireworks, picnics and general fiesta endow the occasion. From the mother country, Portugal, come religious customs. The mid-night Mass or Missa do Gallo is reverently celebrated from great churches in Brazilian cities to

even open air gatherings, every place, throughout the land. People remain up for hours after this, visiting, passing out bounty to the poor and viewing with love the "presepios" or Nativity groups, or, perhaps there's a Miracle Play.

Gallery



Our brilliantly clad children from Brazil might well be decked for balmy Christmas weather. Rosa is a jointed, well rounded dolly made of felt with black floss hair upon which is perched a basket of fruits and flowers. Fabio is her brown complexioned, sweet faced brother. They are 8½ inches tall, No. 365B for him, \$4.50. And 365A for her, \$5.50. A Christmas Special on this pair, \$8.00.

SINT NIKLASS AVOND

Ah, that's the 6th of December, in Holland, a day of giving and

receiving gifts, of reminiscing for the older folk, and happy anticipation for the youngsters. Good food is enjoyed of course, and in no country is there such elaborate packaging and amazing surprises in the field of Christmas presents. On Saint Nicholas' Day, queer packages are delivered—by strangers, by a servant, addressed to one member of the family, but inside wrappings divulging quite a different destination. A loaf of bread or cake or a cheese may encase the surprise, and then there are the wooden shoes set out with hay in them for Saint Nicholas' white horse, shoes found later to be filled with gifts and goodies!

Jan and Micke are adorable Dutch dolls, small woodens which stand squarely on their yellow sabots. Their neat costumes are of bright, close woven cottons, hair is floss, but otherwise all wood. Jointed, 4½ inch tall Jan is No. 300 and she, 300A, \$1.95 each.

GRETCHEN, JOHANN AND KRIS KRINGLE

In the old Catholic state of Bavaria, south of the Danube, Christmas preparations begin several weeks ahead of the Blessed Eve. One pretty "pre" custom is the hanging up of the Advent wreath, four weeks before Christmas, then one red candle and a paper star are added each week. On December 6th, the Fair, "Christmarkt" opens with festive goodies and pretties and toys to sell from then on. In Germany the Manger group is called "Krippe," and either the Angel child Christkind or more modern Kris Kringle searches out the lighted

windows to leave gifts for good children like Gretchen and Johann.



These all hand made dolls have a humorous, homespun quality that will endear them to any collector. Round stockinette heads, round painted eyes and heart shaped mouths are conventionally styled. Cute little hats and mountain dress with brief britches on him, full skirt, scarf and apron on her. Touches of embroidery, some heavy wool and felt, and stitched-in floss hair add to the decorative effect. 8½ inches tall, No. 604, Johann and 604A Gretchen, Sp. \$5.00 each.

SHENG DAN JIEH

In vast, varied China, there never has been a notable percentage of Christian believers, but around our Missions, in coastal villages, and in days past, far into the interior, Sheng Dan Jieh (Holy Birth Festival) was a joyous time. The Chinese love their

Tree of Light, hand trimmed with paper flowers and chains that they have made. Lanterns are carried into the otherwise dark church and Oriental words float forth to carol tunes. Gifts, if any, are merely little trinkets. Perhaps this should be written in past tense, this current time of great travail in China—but our faith is that Trees of Light again will glow to banish fear and hate.



One of our best buys in foreign dolls (but limited stock) is a whole Chinese family, father and mother, 7 inches tall, with son, daughter and baby in arms, all in correct proportion and costumes. They do not even need stands. Especially welcome for a junior collection, No. 406, — 5 dolls — \$5.00 Remember, please, and include postage for any order less than \$1.00.

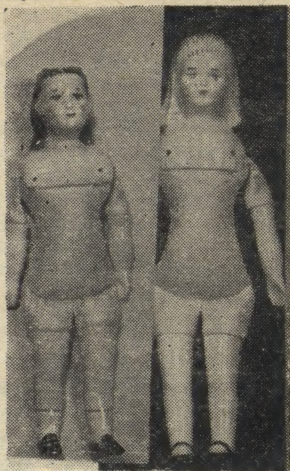


"FEEL LIKE SEWING?"

The cut of these china head dolls was made about fifteen years ago when Kimport imported German made, china head dolls, dolls that had been made perhaps forty years before that. Frankly, their dating is a bit obscure because the owners who held this merchandise didn't care to acknowledge how out of date his dollies were!

After another war, and years more in hiding, still more of these old china heads have come to light. Stored away as sets, a head with china arms and legs, they are in two smallish sizes only. Heads 1½" and 1 1/4" high with four matching limbs are No. 613 at \$1.40, and 613A at \$1.10. Ready cut muslin body of proper size and instructions come with either set. You can't go wrong in stitching, stuffing and assembling these

old-timers, and then it's such fun to dress these oldfashioned little "Godeys."



Should you prefer a modern miss we have pretty blonde "Alice" and pert red-headed "Ginger." These 8 inch ceramics by Helen Young are great little girl favorites; Alice o' Wonderland, No. 45A, and Ginger, No. 45, \$3.95 each.

LOVELY TO LOOK AT DELIGHTFUL TO OWN

Only a few times have the dolls of Humpty Dumpty Doll Hospital, the "Clear" dolls, or "Lillian Smith" dolls—been offered in Doll Talk. That has not been because we disapproved of these beautiful moderns. Kimport, as you doubtless know, has handled hundreds, yes, thousands of authentic antiques. We appreciate these thoroughly; we in no way confuse them with replica dolls. Our largest business and first love has been in finding foreign dolls of

collection class. We furnish historical likenesses or portrait dolls, State types, oddments, anything that passes our standards as being something some other collector will enjoy.

Through the years since Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Clear established their "Humpty Dumpty" repair and doll making business, Kimport has stocked moderately, their beautifully made parian, bisque and china dolls. Our relations remain the same with the present owner of the business. We think the same high standards of modeling, texture of materials remain in their complete dolls. The colors, painting detail, the finely designed arms and legs and corseted bodies all seem of highest grade in the dolls furnished us.

We are pleased again to offer a charming two, "Sally," small top picture in parian, and "Elsa," below, in pale bisque. As I started to say at the very beginning of this story, few H.D.D.H. dolls have got into Doll Talk and the reason is because we have to have a few dozen right here on hand, before saying—"You may order."

Sally is one of the most aristocratic little ladies with her pale blonde hair brushed high above pierced ears. There is a coronet braid atop, and a low, looped coil of hair beneath a glazed black comb. Draped around her shoulders, back and front, is a scalloped fichu, daintily edged and trimmed with pinhead paste dots. Even Sally's eyelids are beautifully modeled.

Elsa, made of satin smooth bisque, is of a delicious flesh tint, strikingly embellished with jet

throat band, a circle comb with beaded top and a bow at the right side in her tawny blonde curls. Hair styling is an elaborate clustering of soft cascading curls from the puffed crown above this comb to the nape of her neck. A double pleat collar band fastens with a round gilt brooch, with gilt repeated in the black pendant.



Both of these belles bear the Clear signature and date stamp, Sally '49—Elsa '48, I believe denoting the time of their entrance into the line. Both are 17 inch size, have exquisitely cast Victorian booted legs and cupped hand arms. Clad only in pretty boned corset and earrings. Postpaid, and, as always, returnable. To send or to put in lay-away:—

Parian Sally, No. 183S — \$22.50
French Bisque Elsa — No. 183E
\$25.00 Postpaid

SHADES OF F. NIGHTINGALE!

Florence B. Martin, who is a trained nurse, writes about dragging a few dolls along with her, although most of her beloved collection has to stay packed up, at home in Vermont. But look't this:—"I have a 9½ inch tall china head, 15 inches around, standing on my dresser. She - or it - wears my cap when I am off duty."



To begin with, here is a suggestion that you buy yourself a Christmas doll. Contract for some coveted antique to be held and budgeted, or splurge with the price in full, and we'll send it right along! Isn't there one money gift you can spend as you please? Haven't you bought enough for all and sundry to deserve a doll for yourself?

For temptress No. One, how about a "B" marked Bru, a small size, beautiful child with those large, unmistakable brown glass eyes. Original, light brown hair wig is in long curls, rather heavy brows, closed lips; swivel neck on composition body which is ordinary, but original, with Roman sandal, strap boots painted on. Perfect condition; dressed in pink gingham. She is 10" size, No. A451, \$75.00.

Good bisques are so pretty; "Archie" is 'most too much so for a boy! Rather narrow brown glass eyes, short cut brown hair, closed lips and dimples make his head a treasure. He has composition hands and a cloth body, completely outfitted in a snugly fitted wool snow suit, hand-made in tightest crochet. Visor cap, scarf, mittens and shoe trim are of the same holly red, with creamy white and a bit of bright green to make him look even more like Christmas. Sure wish we had a dozen Archies, but there's only one. 12" tall, No. A448, \$18.00.

"Frederick" is a 14" bisque and

composition lad of German make. Closed lips, deep modeled eyes and short blonde hair, side parted; perfect condition. Sort of peasant style suit; Fred looks like the sort of chap girl dolls would like for a brother. No. A385 and again, \$18.00.

Another boy doll is one of the less expensive type Jumeaus, in French sailor costume; long trousers, blue and white striped dickey, cute collar trimmed with three rows of tiny braid and flat felt tam with its big red pom-pom. The doll himself is only 8½" tall, but marked on the head, "S.F.B.J." and "Paris." He has jointed composition body, and painted eyes, but is very smooth bisque and a bit expensive because he is a Jumeau. No. A528, price, \$30.00.

All bisque, with hidden joints at hips and shoulders, is "Cookie," a chubby, sweet little 7½" fellow with big blue (sleeping) eyes, closed mouth and original blonde bobbed wig. White ribbed bisque stockings and strap slippers with heels; circa 1890. Dressed in white linen suit and cap; No. A546, \$16.00.

A 6 3/4" French bisque with modeled yellow-gold curls is such a perfect little doll of the 1880's, with plump, original pink arms and the cutest legs you ever saw! The boots are bittersweet and above the black line of their tops there is an outstanding frill of white, like ruching, between that and the pink upper legs. The hair styling is a puff of bangs across the forehead and little soft curls covering all the rest of the head; painting is very lovely, with blue eyes, and costuming, exquisite—challis frock with bittersweet poka dots, made with panel front

and boat neck. No. A872, \$24.00.

While we are bragging about bisques, here are two babies. Babies are precious in this medium. "Tad" is a curly legged 9" chubby with rich, warm complexion, big, brown glass eyes and short bobbed brown wig. Lips are an open bow with tiny tongue modeled on lower lip, two upper teeth in the arch above. There is a dimple and almost a smile. Eyes set; arms have been repainted. Jointed composition body with swivel bisque head marked "P.M.", and size No. O. No. A434, \$10.50.

Baby is a bisque head infant with sparse brush lines of baby hair, sleeping blue-gray eyes, sweet baby features including parted lips and a pair of "toothies." His pink composition body shows some played-with scuffing, but we'd still say "good original condition" and nicely dressed. 11" size, No. A219, \$15.00.

Switching from bisques, I'd love to start out with "temptation No. One" again, a large papier-mache that has been wax finished. She looks like an American primitive painting with those porcelain or opaque glass eyes, just a big dark circle on the milk-white background, protruding in that quaint old-fashioned way. I think such eyes were never made after 1850 or thereabouts. This 22" one with wooden arms and legs is supposed to date back to the 1830's. The hair wig is a family affair, dull blonde and straight as can be; old lisle stockings and hand-made boots of fine broadcloth, with tiny eyelets, are made to fit on over the wooden legs. The dress looks a good hundred years old, some sort of fancy wool skirt, with four rows of black

wool braiding and a bustle backed blouse, fitted and fringed, with self buttons up the front. Coloring is in maroon, brown and purple shades. She is a wonderful old doll, in amazingly good condition, No. AB36, price \$130.00.

Also museum class is "Alice," the late Alice Kent Trimpey's own Greiner doll. There is a dab of re-touching on the face. Mrs. Trimpey never minded wielding her paint brush, as well as her pen, when it came to dolls. Nice old body with brown leather arms, and underwear trimmed in manipulated ric-rac are doubtless original. The Greiner patent label is intact. Taffeta dress is splitting badly. Really old cotton could replace this. 24" tall, black hair parts well back over the high rounded forehead; three round curls down each side so half ears show; shoulders and all, intact. Alice is No. A501, \$75.00

Larger and earlier is "Miss A. M.", who is one of those serenely sweet German made models which preceded our similar American patents of 1858 and thereafter. 28" tall, with old cloth body, but new white leather forearms. Dressed in oldfashioned white mull which we did launder and spruce up a bit; her garments of chief interest are the shoes and stockings. Fine, hand knitted hose have a small cross stitched "A.M." on one and the shoes were early commercial ones of red Morocco with flat tan soles and eyelet lacing. No. AB120, \$50.00.

One more excellent, but smaller papier-mache of early vintage, around 1845, is in splendid original condition; no re-touching on

the blue eyed, girlish head with high forehead and soft curls. Wooden arms, flat soled, green slippered legs, and pencil slim kid body all quite perfect. This 10" missy was re-dressed at Kimport, in antique heavy silk in period style. Her No. A535, price, \$37.00.

Boy dolls are not so common although we do have quite a few this time in bisque. Willie is a 9" china with nice old high glaze arms and legs. His complexion is creamy, not plain white, hair center parted, with one top roll curl and close cropped all over the back of his pretty head. Perfect; dressed like mamma's little gentleman in velvet coat and long plaid trousers—No. A397, \$17.50.

"Edwin" is 13" tall, has a 3" heavy celluloid head that is about 35 years old, a nondescript cloth body with composition hands, kid glove shoes, and wearing a blue suit over white blouse, made to please some little girl. "Edwin?"—because of a cunning red fire-chief hat, of pressed cotton felt, the classic chapeau made famous by Ed Wynn. No. A353, \$4.50.

Same type celluloid boy head only, Indian trademark, and "American" raised on shoulders. 2 1/4" size, perfect, No. 561, \$1.50. Juno mark metal head only; blonde, painted blue eyes, No. 560, \$1.75.

DO YOU KNOW —

Those dark, pupil-less eyes found in old wax and composition dolls date them as not later than about 1855? It seems that most such heads were English.

IT'S CHRISTMAS —

IN AND OUT

Last winter, after Christmas, Mrs. J. E. Sharp shared with us their happy solution of using Kimport Christmas dolls. Pictured on a long, carved buffet was a sort of divided stage setting. In the snowy exterior scene, against pines, were grouped our five Carolers. There was even one tree all decorated with miniature baubles by the door, a door which opened into the other half or interior scene where were grouped the triumphant Cratchits and beaming Uncle Scrooge.

And here's a bit of quote from Mrs. Sharp's letter accompanying the picture:—"The print fails to show the dainty pink rose wallpaper, the fireplace made with real little bricks, real logs, and the picture on the wall is a needle-pointed motto of Tiny Tim's "God bless us every one". We are so pleased with the whole English set."

MODELS

Mrs. E. Imperati, California artist, reports using her Kimport Dolls as subjects for water color sketches. How lovely some of them could be in wash, or tempera.

NOT MELANCHOLIA

Ann Ayer is a name well known in Eastern doll collector circles. In a letter about dolls she included this bit that reminds me of many of the rest of us:—"I guess I enjoy too many things — camera, stamps, buttons, whittling, and dolls. I tell my husband that if they ever decide to put me away to put me away for being 'pifflicated', that I bet I'll be a happy inmate, doing only all the hobby things I want to do:"

DOLL TALK

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

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Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

DOLLS IN SECOND PLACE

Our nose is not out of joint that dolls rate second with Crystal I. Mann. She writes:— "Maybe you'd be interested to know how I became interested in this hobby. During the war, my husband, Captain Mann, and I had two boys in the service. These lads made many friends in the Air Force, among them boys who had no parents or any one to write to. I became "Mom" to seven lads in different branches of the service and one English nurse. Somehow, first one and then another would send me gifts including foreign dolls. I had been an only child and as such owned many dolls, but now they had grown into a fascinating hobby.

But now for our even better one — Hobby number one. Eight years ago, I started a children's home and to date I've had 94 children in the ages of from one day to fourteen years. So you see I like live dolls best, then the foreign dolls come next, and the two intermingle. Children certainly love the dolls, and I can easily dream that the dolls love the children!"



NORWEGIAN TROLLS

Fairy tales may be about pixies, leprechaun, genies, elves — but in Norway it's trolls, who are the favorites. Know y' that these wee folk own all of the treasures under the earth's surface — that they'd burst like a bubble if they were such goons as to venture out in daylight? That's why no one ever really sees a troll but these comical little dolls could well belong outside the realm of reality. Their queer faces with grotesque warts and hooked noses have kindly expressions, but there is always a mischievous twinkle in their eyes. Many years ago Kimport had troll dolls from Norway, but these, smaller and equally whimsical are American artist made. Meticulously constructed, hand painted, wool wigged, they are cute as can be!

No. 968, 8½" Troll Man \$2.95

No. 958A 8½" Troll Wife \$2.95

Correspondence Clippings

"Please send me any available literature on your dolls. I am interested in again taking up my doll hobby that has been put away for a number of years. Many of my dolls came from your company." — Lois Morse, Illinois.

"In the July-August Doll Talk you tell about Primer dolls. I once saw one that had the seal of the United States on the front of the body with state names scattered over the rest of the body."

Mrs. A. E. Schwind—Ohio

"I can scarcely wait until Christmas to see how the children like the dolls. If Robinson Crusoe measures up, I may want another one. A copy of the book, with the doll, would be a perfect Christmas present for a little niece in Iowa."

Mrs. F. H. Stohr—Pa.

"You should see my 'old hands' tremble when opening a Kimport package! I loved the gypsy girl on sight, and promptly ran over to a dear friend's home where we oh'd and ah'd at the fine work. Doris Serafini is an 'Artist'."

Mrs. Mabel Johnson—Mont.

"As a first order from Kimport, I'm so happy to order that little Welsh pair. My grandparents came from Wales, and I have long wanted something like this."

Mrs. Ray Herman—Penna.

"One of the Crusaders will go to school with me to represent the King Arthur stories in my little 'Dolls for Books Corner'."

Helen Benner—Maine

"I'm hoping by Christmas to order Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim for my own little Timothy. Dickens' Christmas Carol has been a holiday tradition in our family as long as I can remember, and since our own Tim will be three next month, this coming Christmas will be the first to really impress him. This double doll should be a treasure enduring to help him recall this Christmas as long as he lives."

Charlotte Bailey—Ohio

"We have purchased an eleven-room house on the state highway and at last I have a room especially for dolls. I have around five hundred but can now slowly weed them out to make my collection more interesting. There are many gaps that Kimport can fill when the budget allows."—Mrs. Marion Kunkler, New York.

"I was interested in the shadow box idea for doll heads, because I have a huge walnut shadow box lined with black velvet, which holds four Lenci children, two boys, two girls. I have had more 'raves' over it than over any other display I own! That last Lenci from you is the fulfillment of a dream of three years."

Ruth Whittington—Ohio

"The skillfully made Blackfoot squaw was awaiting my return from a vacation in the Adirondacks. After I had thoroughly exhausted myself unpacking luggage, I then had the pleasure of relaxing and enjoying the uninterrupted opening of my doll package."

Elizabeth Gunter—N. Y.

"When I was on vacation a man that ran an antique shop tried to sell me a fairly common china-head for a real high price. Just because I'm younger, they try to pull the wool over my eyes and it makes me so mad!"

Anne Nuckolls—Delaware

"I still have my own china doll with a blonde five inch head, which I received on my sixth Christmas, which means she is sixty years old this year. And I'm still crazy about dolls!"

Addie Gruelle—Ind.

"Looks like lots of fun ahead in assembling and dressing those little chinaheads as a Girl Scout project. They are certainly reasonable enough to encourage youngsters to become interested in old dolls."

Mrs. George De Long—Minn.

"I have a group of fifteen dolls which I take to the fourth grades in the public schools each week to talk on Michigan Explorers, including such men as Champlain, Pere Marquette, La Salle, Nicolet, Joliet, etc."

Marion G. Bender—Michigan

"When it comes to making doll wigs, I surely miss my two black cocker spaniels. There is a black dog next to mother's—think I'll visit her, tomorrow!"

—Irene Nielson, California

"My schoolteacher daughter breezed in this morning to borrow a Russian Matreshka to illustrate some folk story."

Mrs. J. J. Pinney—Kansas

"Please send six little china dolls, \$1.40 each. This will take care of three Christmas gifts as I plan to dress them as twins."

Louise Leonberger—Calif.

"I hope to send a special order before Christmas, as I have doll conscious friends who like a little doll stuffed in with their gift."

Florance Martin—Conn.

"These few and far between antiques are for me the real fun in doll collecting, but Martha Lynn's first love is foreign dolls, so foreign dolls we get."

—Mrs. Vance Kohler, Penn.

AND NOW A MEDAL!

Hawaiian born Mary L. Gerst's name has appeared in Doll Talk from time to time. She is our past-70-year-old doll collector from Honolulu who is always winning ribbons from the big annual show sponsored there by the park board. She completed one of the first sets of all U. S. Presidents and first ladies, made by Kimport. She is ever so generous in sharing her huge family of dolls for any worthy cause.

And now a medal? Yes, this vibrant Mrs. Gerst has recently been so honored by the V.F.W., first woman in the territory to receive their Citizenship award in recognition of her checking up to 4000 hours of volunteer sewing and such at the Armed Services Y.M.C.A.

She started collecting on a world cruise in 1935; more dolls were found on other trips and Kimport has had the pleasure of sending over 200, many of them from far, far places but via Missouri to Hawaii.

Because It's Almost Christmas

Amongst the doll order letters that came last season, many radiated that glow of good will and appreciation which make the Kimport business such a beloved one to us. One that was saved for this Christmas was the following from Mrs. Dale Unger—

"Snow is still deep outside and the radio just announced more snow for tomorrow. Our Christmas tree needs another box of icicles; top shelves of the linen closet are full of packages to be wrapped yet; the piano is heaped high with those that are; I am running around with half a dozen lists clutched in my hot little hand, as I try to remember whether we sent the black and white wool scarf to Uncle Keif, and whether we have ordered the bridesmaid's flowers! Oh, yes, my youngest sister is getting married the 23rd.

"And now a bit of Christmas news about my own two youngsters. Ronnie sets up the nativity scene in a boyish and unusual way. He has a model farm, the barn about 2 x 2½ feet, complete with machinery and animals. There, amidst the tractors and plows, the shepherds followed by their flocks, peer in through the open door. A donkey looks over Joseph's shoulder. The chickens are in the loft, the horse looks over the wall. The Angels seem to be perched on the machinery, while the Holy Family is oblivious of all except the tiny baby. Wise men are coming through the South Forty. If it continues to grow, it will take up most of the living room!

Mollie has a Christmas scene on one of the bookshelves. Grandma Doll, with her gingham dress, lace shawl, spectacles and white hair, is sitting in a little rocker by the spinning wheel, telling stories to Huck Finn, Becky, Tom, and several other dolls. There's a little fireplace with socks (paper) and a tree. She would like to have all her dolls on display, but there isn't room, so most of the poor dears will have to stay packed away in their big wicker basket."

Then Mary Unger selected a few foreign gift dolls for Mollie's family. These get to travel to school, even if they did have to live like tenement dwellers in close quarters until the new room was finished. And there were personal good wishes too for a new year, ending with that deeply devout prayer of all— "And may it bring us closer to a good and lasting peace for all the world."

We at Kimport share in the gentle glow enkindled by this story. May we send our greetings and good wishes to all our collector friends for Christmas and the brave New Year.